GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:207
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
PROTEST AGAINST GM FOODS
Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been a nation wide protest against field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) foods particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Maharasthra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had ordered any enquiry into this;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. There has been no reports of nation wide protest against field trials of the genetically modified foods. This Ministry in fact, has not permitted any genetically modified food for field testing or for commercial use in the country. Thirteen GM food crops, however, are presently under contained trials under the supervision of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). One NGO has raised some issues regarding the contained trials of one food crop namely Bt Okra in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. After giving a hearing to the NGO it was determined that the issues raised were without substance. Accordingly, there is no question of ordering an inquiry into the matter at this stage. It may be mentioned that only after the successful completion of these trials, the proposals would be referred to this Ministry for approval of large scale trials and subsequent commercial release.

(d) to (e) Does not arise.